

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU  
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY  
Studies in the News**

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**California -- One Hundred Years Ago**

**July 1908** - F. Henry Schlenz, an aged veteran of the Civil War, appeared in the local Land Office yesterday to make his final proof on government land located in San Diego county. Though he and his wife have each passed the four-score-year mark, they are bravely beginning life anew in the Far West. Five years residence is required on homestead claims but the four year's service in the Union army enables Schlenz to make his final proof at the expiration of the first year. "Wife and I are working on our little place as if we were just starting life," said the veteran proudly. "I ain't as spry as I used to be but we raise all we want to eat and have some garden truck and eggs to sell" *Los Angeles Times* (July 31, 190-8) pg. II1.

**1908** - Lewis B. Clark, forty-niner, Civil War veteran and octogenarian, who left the home of his daughter, Mrs. John McKissick, of Santa Monica, a week ago for 'a walk in the hills,' has been found near Ravenna. A telegram sent by F.B.Lee of that place to Mrs McKisssick last night reads: "Your father started walking toward Los Angeles today. He will be about Saugus tonight. The old may is tall and robust and a great walker in spite of his eighty-three years... Clark had talked frequently of returning to his old haunts in Fresno County... Last Thursday he had only 25 cents in his pocket but that seems to be more than he needed." *Los Angeles Times* (October 28, 1908) pg. II1.

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## Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at [www.library.ca.gov/sitn](http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn)

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261; [csinfo@library.ca.gov](mailto:csinfo@library.ca.gov)) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

### CORRECTIONS

**California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: Although Building a Condemned Inmate Complex at San Quentin May Cost More Than Expected, the Costs of Other Alternatives for Housing Condemned Inmates Are Likely to Be Even Higher. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) July 2008. 118 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2007-120.2.pdf>

["The cost of new housing for San Quentin State Prison's growing number of Death Row inmates will exceed estimates by nearly \$40 million, and the compound could run out of space soon after it is completed. The auditor's new \$395.5 million price tag for the project, which is expected to be completed by 2011, is new bad news for a state facing billions of dollars in budget shortfalls..... The new complex would house a maximum of 1,152 inmates, providing adequate capacity until 2035 if most inmates are housed two per cell. But if plans for double-celling are challenged in court and the state loses, San Quentin could run out of space in three years....In addition, the report said operating costs for the facility would require an additional \$1.2 billion over 20 years." San Francisco Chronicle (July 30, 2008) 1.]  
[Request #S08-42-2749]

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## **CRIME PREVENTION**

**Preventing Shoplifting. AND: Preventing Public Disorder. AND: Preventing Retail Burglary. AND: Preventing Panhandling. AND: Preventing Car Crimes. AND: Preventing Vandalism. By Nancy G. La Vigne and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) May 2008. Various pagings.**

Full text at: <http://www.urban.org/justice/index.cfm>

["The guide walks readers through the process of understanding the root causes of public disorders, identifying potential strategies, and measuring the impact of those strategies. While public disorder problems vary based on local context, promising strategies to address them include: broadcasting classical music; improving lighting in parking facilities and building exteriors; securing perimeters to limit pedestrian access; and establishing policies and sanctions regarding acceptable public behavior."]

[Request #S08-42-2735]

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## **HATE CRIMES**

**2007 Hate Crime Report. By the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. (The Commission, Los Angeles, California). July 2008. 36 p.**

Full text at:

<http://humanrelations.co.la.ca.us/hatecrime/data/2007%20Hate%20Crime%20Report.pdf>

["Hate crimes in Los Angeles County rose to their highest level in five years last year, led by attacks between Latinos and blacks...The report showed hate crimes rose by 28%, to 763, with vandalism and assault leading the way... Hate crimes based on race, religion and sexual orientation all rose, increasing against nearly all groups -- including blacks, gays, Jews, Mexicans, whites and Asians -- even as crime in general declined. Despite the intense national debate over illegal immigration, hate crimes against immigrants decreased slightly from 42 to 39... The report found that a third of suspected Latino-on-black crimes and 42% of suspected black-on-Latino crimes involved gangs. The crimes were increasingly violent last year, including two attempted murders." Los Angeles Times (July 25, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-42-2734]

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## DEMOGRAPHY

### IMMIGRATION

**Homeward Bound: Recent Immigration Enforcement and the Decline in the Illegal Alien Population. By Steven A. Camarota and Karen Jensenius, Center for Immigration Studies. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 2008. 12 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.cis.org/articles/2008/back808.pdf>

["A study said that a weaker economy and aggressive immigration enforcement have prompted many immigrants to return home to Mexico and other countries.... The report said the number of illegal immigrants in the United States peaked at 12.5 million people in August 2007, and had declined by 11 percent, or about 1.3 million people, since then. California's percentage drop was about the same as the nation's.... Because the Census Bureau does not ask about a person's immigration status, Camarota used the population of young Latinos with low levels of education to estimate the nation's illegal immigrant population. Camarota acknowledged his method, which differs from the method used by the Homeland Security Department and other experts to estimate the illegal population, is imperfect." San Jose Mercury News (July 31, 2008) 1.]

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**Attrition Through Recession: CIS Report Marred by Inaccuracies, Contradictions, and Wishful Thinking. By Andrea Nill, Immigration Policy Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 30, 2008. 5 p.**

Full text at:

<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/images/File/factcheck/CISPopulationReport7-30-08.pdf>

["Most researchers agree that undocumented immigration to the United States is driven largely by economics. This is hardly surprising given that the vast majority of undocumented immigrants in this country are from nations in which economic opportunities and employment prospects are few and far between.... Yet a report by the Center for Immigration Studies claims that the decisions of undocumented immigrants about where to live and work are now based more on the politics of immigration enforcement than the economics of their own survival.... The persuasiveness of this argument is undermined not only by an absence of hard data, but by the faulty logic and contradictory statements of the report itself."]

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## **ECONOMY**

### **CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**Total Recall: The Need For CPSC Reform Now. By CALPIRG and others.  
(CALPIRG, Sacramento, California) July 2008. 11 p.**

Full text at:

<http://www.calpirg.org/uploads/g6/3n/g63nOcdzdmqReIU9fndCfw/catotalrecall.pdf>

["In 2008, recalls are up, according to Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) data.... Yet the remedial CPSC reform legislation passed overwhelmingly by both the House and Senate in response to that 2007 recall wave has yet to become law. It is stalled in conference committee, where both the toy and chemical industries seek to block, weaken or delay some of its most critical reforms. This report explains why Congress needs to enact a strong final law that includes all of these key uncompleted reforms -- a new toy standard that requires mandatory safety testing for toys, a ban on toxic phthalates and whistleblower protections -- while rejecting industry's eleventh-hour demands to add new and unprecedented limits on state authority to enforce and enact product safety laws."]

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### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Helping Poor Working Parents Get Ahead:Federal Funds for New State  
Strategies and Systems By Harry Holzer and Karin Martinson, Urban Institute.  
(The Institute, Washington, DC) July 2008. 26 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411722\\_working\\_parents.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411722_working_parents.pdf)

["Low-wage adult workers have trouble getting and keeping higher-paying jobs. Most lack the basic skills and education needed to move up, but certain kinds of assistance might give some the edge they need to break the pattern. In this essay, Holzer and Martinson recommend competitive federal matching block grants that reward states for developing new advancement systems which are linked to state workforce development structures. They would also require partnerships with employers and training providers, including community colleges."]

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**Los Angeles Neighborhood Market DrillDown: Catalyzing Business Investment in Inner-City Neighborhoods. By Social Compact, Inc. (Social Compact, Washington, DC) July 2008. 46 p.**

Full text at:

<http://www.socialcompact.org/pdfs/Social%20Compact%20Los%20Angeles%20DrillDown%20report.pdf>

["This report uses data from credit records, building permit and tax assessment records and other sources to look at the socio-economic and demographic traits in traditionally underserved communities in LA.... The purpose of the report is to highlight the economic potential and opportunity in these areas for investors, developers, local government and other stakeholders to develop. Information and data include: housing (density and population); market strength and buying power (area expenditures, business revenue, full service grocery stores per households, financial institutions per household); and more. A survey of residents' financial and banking practices is included in the report. "]

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## **FOOD INDUSTRY**

**Feeding Our Communities: A Call for Standards for Food Access and Job Quality in Los Angeles' Grocery Industry. By the Blue Ribbon Commission on L.A.'s Grocery Industry and Community Health. (The Commission, Los Angeles, California) July 2008. 32 p.**

Full text at: <http://laane.org/docs/blueribboncommissionreport2008.pdf>

["Entire communities in Los Angeles remain without adequate supermarkets to meet neighborhood needs. A recent slump in the U.S. economy and spikes in the cost of food and fuel have affected all Americans. Undoubtedly this has been more acutely felt in underserved communities where families are faced with unacceptable choices: drive farther to buy groceries, pay higher prices at inferior markets or eat unhealthy fast food. The Commission is also confronted with changing trends in the industry, new grocers entering the Los Angeles market and the proliferation of a new store format.... This report presents findings and recommendations on the state of the grocery industry, the conditions for workers and the continuing problem of access to healthy food."]

[Request #S08-42-2743]

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## EDUCATION

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

**Raising African American Student Achievement: California Goals, Local Outcomes.** By EdSource. (EdSource, Mountain View, California) May 2008. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.edsource.org/pdf/AAachievement08.pdf>

["This report provides good reason to believe that more is possible. A close look at the districts and schools that serve California's African Americans shows that these students excel academically in many places. The second part of this report provides a broad introduction to some of the variations in African American student achievement that exist across our state at the district and school levels, in the hope that local practices and policies that are working might become a greater topic of research and policy action, and a greater resource for all California students and educators. The report also points to organizations that are directly involved with these issues and additional research in this area."]

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### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

**Advancing Achievement: Findings from an Independent Evaluation of a Major After-School Initiative.** By Amy Arbretton and others, Public/Private Ventures. (Public/Private Ventures, Oakland, California) February 2008. 116 p.

Full text at: [http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/225\\_publication.pdf](http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/225_publication.pdf)

["This report presents findings from independent research on Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning, (CORAL) an eight-year, \$58 million effort to improve the educational performance of low-achieving students in five California cities. The report demonstrates the relationship between high-quality literacy programming and academic gains. In addition it informs the after-school field of the potential role of quality programs in the ongoing drive to improve academic achievement. Findings include: 1) children enrolled in the CORAL programs had high levels of participation and a strong sense of engagement; and 2) higher levels of engagement in CORAL were related to positive changes in children's attitudes toward reading as well as attitudes and behaviors in school."]

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## HOME SCHOOLING

**Jonathan L., et al. v Superior Court of Los Angeles County. California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District. B192878. August 8, 2008. 44 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/B192878A.PDF>

["A state appeals court lifted the cloud it had cast on the homeschooling of 166,000 California children and ruled that parents have a right to educate their children at home even if they lack a teaching credential.... Although the compulsory education law has been unchanged since 1929 and rulings upholding it date from 1953, state and local education officials rarely take action against the thousands of parents who opt out of the system by homeschooling their children.... In a rare statement from the judiciary -- which usually considers itself the ultimate authority on the meaning of the law -- the court said the 1953 decision that applied compulsory education without exceptions has been effectively overruled in the real world. 'Clinging to such precedent would undermine a practice that has been, if not actively encouraged, at least acknowledged and accepted by officials and the public for many years.'" San Francisco Chronicle (August 9, 2008) 1.]  
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## EMPLOYMENT

### EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

**A Health Impact Assessment of the California Healthy Families, Healthy Workplaces Act of 2008 By Rajiv Bhatia, San Francisco Department of Public Health, and others. (Human Impact Partners, Oakland, California) July 30, 2008. 79 p.**

Full text at: [http://humanimpact.org/PSD/PaidSickDaysHIA\\_report.pdf](http://humanimpact.org/PSD/PaidSickDaysHIA_report.pdf)

[" Many working Californians don't get paid any sick days at all....about 5.4 million of them. These workers are both sicker and poorer than employees who do receive sick leave. The report used data from existing health surveys to paint a picture of who does and doesn't receive paid sick leave: Better-paid workers are more likely to get paid time off. .... 72 percent compared to.... only 21 percent of low-paid workers get paid sick time...Healthy workers are more likely to have paid sick leave than workers in poor health...Thirty-eight percent of California workers with heart disease don't receive paid sick leave, and 41 percent of those with diabetes don't receive paid sick leave." San Francisco Chronicle (July 31, 2008) 1.]  
[Request #S08-42-2754]

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## HEALTH CAREERS

**Allied Health Workforce Analysis: Los Angeles Region. By Timothy Bates and Susan Chapman, UCSF Center for the Health Professions. (The Center, San Francisco, California) May 2008. 102 p.**

Full text at: <http://lahealthaction.org/library/AlliedWorkforceMay2008study.pdf>

["The objective of this series of reports is to describe and analyze the demographic composition of three principal groups: the general population, the current health professions workforce and graduates of selected allied health education programs. The report also includes information on current wage levels and projected occupational employment that can be used to evaluate the relationships between wages, employment opportunity and demographic diversity. This report is focused on Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Nearly 20 allied health occupations were selected for a detailed analysis based on several criteria."]

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## LOW-WAGE WORKERS

**Enabling Families to Weather Emergencies and Develop: The Role of Assets. By Signe-Mary McKernan and Caroline Ratcliffe, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 2008. 30 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411734\\_enabling\\_families.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411734_enabling_families.pdf)

["Low-wage jobs can be unstable, leaving families struggling to cope with employment gaps and financial emergencies that can strike without warning. About four in five low-income families are 'asset poor,' lacking enough liquid savings to live for three months at the federal poverty level without earnings. The authors suggest a cluster of policies that would improve financial markets and savings opportunities for low-income families across the life cycle."]

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## POVERTY

**"Neighborhoods That Don't Work." By Allison K. Rodean and Christopher H. Wheeler. IN: The Regional Economist, vol. 16, no. 2 (April 2008) pp. 7-11.**

Full text at: <http://www.stls.frb.org/publications/re/2008/b/pdf/neighborhoods.pdf>

["Although it is hardly surprising that unemployment rates differ across neighborhoods within a metropolitan area, the variation in neighborhood-level unemployment between 1980 and 2000 is striking. Over this period, rates of joblessness among block groups with the lowest levels of unemployment dropped even further, whereas rates of unemployment among neighborhoods with the highest levels tended to grow larger. The rise in the concentration of unemployment may be creating poverty traps from which people will find it increasingly difficult to escape."]

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## UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

**Weathering Job Loss: Unemployment Insurance.** By Margaret Simms, Economic and Social Policy Research, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 2008. 17 p.

Full text at: [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411730\\_job\\_loss.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411730_job_loss.pdf)

["Low-wage jobs are often characterized by uncertainty and unpredictable gaps in employment. A majority of workers in these jobs do not have access to the temporary income of unemployment insurance to tide them over when they suffer a job loss. This summary outlines recommendations for updating the program by extending benefits to more workers through changes in eligibility rules and establishing more uniform periods of benefit receipt."]

[Request #S08-42-2746]

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## ENERGY

### SOLAR POWER

**How Much Solar Can We Use, How Fast, and at What Cost?** By Ken Zweibel, George Washington University. (The University, Washington, DC) July 29, 2008. 26 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.gwu.edu/~gwsolar/index\\_files/Zweibel\\_National\\_Academies\\_Talk.pdf](http://www.gwu.edu/~gwsolar/index_files/Zweibel_National_Academies_Talk.pdf)

["The Approach: Conversion of vehicles to plug-in hybrids 9recharge with wind power.) Solar and wind mostly converted in their best resource locations (Southwest & Midwest), but spread out within those regions. Low-loss transmission lines (High Voltage Direct Current) from location of large fields to demand. Wind and solar combined along transmission lines to make smoothly varying, 24/7 output. Impact: Actually reverse carbon dioxide buildup. Achieve energy self-sufficiency and strong economy."]

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## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

### BAY DELTA

**Financing Delta Improvements and Environmental Mitigation. By Dean Mischynski, California Research Bureau, California State Library. CRB-08-011. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) July 2008. 28 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-011.pdf>

["Resolution of the Delta's water supply, water quality, and fish problems may involve building various structures, possibly including gates, pumps, canals, levees, and dams, and undertaking landscaping rearrangements to improve habitat for several species of flora and fauna. Resolution also involves changing water flow regimes in ways that would make more or less water, but probably less, available for human uses. This work and these changes will cost serious money. Cost estimates for many of these actions have not yet been developed. This paper explores approaches to financing these 'improvements' and 'mitigations' While a little abstract, this is abstraction that matters. It will determine from whose pockets a good deal of money will come."]

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### ENDANGERED SPECIES

**Status of the California Condor and Efforts to Achieve its Recovery. By Jeffrey R. Walters and others, American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Conservation, California Condor Blue Ribbon Panel. (California Audubon, Sacramento, California) August 2008. 59 p.**

Full text at: [http://ca.audubon.org/pdf/AOU\\_CONDOR\\_REPORT\\_Aug08\\_final.pdf](http://ca.audubon.org/pdf/AOU_CONDOR_REPORT_Aug08_final.pdf)

["The California condor, rescued from extinction in an elaborate and expensive recovery effort, has become tantamount to a zoo animal in the wild and can't survive on its own without a ban on lead ammunition across its vast western ranges.... Last year California became the first state to pass a law prohibiting hunters from using lead ammunition within the condor's 2,385-square-mile range. The law is 'a huge step forward,' Walters said. But the panel interviewed state officials, local conservationists and hunters, and found that enforcement 'may be highly problematic.'... Poachers kill large numbers of animals and are 'unlikely to comply . . . as long as lead bullets are easily purchased.'" Los Angeles Times (August 9, 2008) 1.]

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## LAKE TAHOE

**Tahoe: State of the Lake Report, 2008. By the Tahoe Environmental Research Center. (The Center, Incline Village, Nevada) August 2008. 60 p.**

Full text at: <http://terc.ucdavis.edu/stateofthelake/StateOfTheLake2008.pdf>

["The news from Lake Tahoe and its overstressed health is mixed this year: Its legendary blue depths are a tiny bit clearer, but the polluting effects of the Angora Fire that burned 3,100 acres and destroyed 254 homes a year ago are still unknown. As for global warming, its effects on the entire Tahoe Basin are measurable: Nights are warmer, the lake's temperature has been slowly rising for many years even though it dipped a bit last year, and last winter saw less snow and more rain than usual." San Francisco Chronicle (August 13, 2008) 1.]  
[Request #S08-42-2786]

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## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**National Emergency Communications Plan. By the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (The Department, Washington, DC) July 2008. 83 p.**

Full text at:  
[http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/national\\_emergency\\_communications\\_plan.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/national_emergency_communications_plan.pdf)

["Every day in cities and towns across the Nation, emergency response personnel respond to incidents of varying scope and magnitude. Their ability to communicate in real time is critical to establishing command and control at the scene of an emergency, to maintaining event situational awareness, and to operating overall within a broad range of incidents. As numerous after-action reports and national assessments<sup>1</sup> have revealed, however, there are still communications deficiencies that affect the ability of responders to manage routine incidents and support responses to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other incidents.... In response, DHS worked with stakeholders from the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels to develop a strategic plan that establishes a national vision for the future state of emergency communications."]  
[Request #S08-42-2770]

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## PRIVATIZATION

**Annual Privatization Report: 2008. By Leonard C. Gilroy, Reason Foundation, and others. (The Foundation, Los Angeles, California) August 2008. 120 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.reason.org/apr2008/apr2008.pdf>

["The federal government's competitive sourcing efforts saved taxpayers \$7.2 billion over the last five years.... Federal employees actually won 83 percent of the job competitions from fiscal 2003 through fiscal 2007. But taxpayers are the real winners: taxpayers save \$25,000 for every job that is put up for competition because even when the government keeps the job it significantly improves efficiency and reduces costs. The report examines the latest trends in privatization and public-private partnerships at the federal, state and local levels. With as many as 23 states potentially facing budget deficits in fiscal 2009, state governments are increasingly looking for ways to cut costs without cutting services. Enter the private sector." Reason Foundation Press Release (August 7, 2008) 1.]

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## REGULATIONS

**The Rush to Re-Regulate. By Robert Hahn, American Enterprise Institute, and Peter Passell, Milken Institute. (American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC) July 2008. 6 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.aei.org/docLib/20080806\\_PM0807\\_topost.pdf](http://www.aei.org/docLib/20080806_PM0807_topost.pdf)

["Tighter oversight of financial markets -- reversing a trend that began in the 1970s with the end of fixed commissions on the U.S. stock exchanges -- is thus almost certainly in the cards. However, a little perspective is in order: re-regulation could have unintended consequences, bolstering the power of well-organized interest groups, reducing access to capital and undermining America's competitive position in the huge and growing global market for financial services. Hence the wisdom in pausing to remember both how easy it is to fall into bad regulation -- and how hard it is to dig out."]

[Request #S08-42-2778]

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## HEALTH

### AFRICAN AMERICANS

**Left Behind: Black America: a Neglected Priority in the Global AIDS Epidemic.**  
**By Phill Wilson, Black Aids Institute, and others. (The Institute, Los Angeles, California) August 2008. 58. p**

Full text at: [http://www.blackaids.org/image\\_uploads/article\\_575/08\\_left\\_behind.pdf](http://www.blackaids.org/image_uploads/article_575/08_left_behind.pdf)

[" The number of African Americans infected with HIV exceeds the number of people in seven of the 15 countries served by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The report calls for HIV testing in black communities and urges AIDS leaders to speak out on the neglect in the United States. Many African Americans have a high poverty rate, and have less access to medical information, health care and treatment of AIDS.... and the reluctance by African Americans to address the disease because of its association with homosexuality... carries a heavy stigma in the black community. AIDS is the leading cause of death among black women ages 25 to 34 and the second-leading cause of death of black men ages 35 to 44." San Francisco Chronicle (July 30, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-42-2755]

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### EMERGENCY CARE

**Are the Uninsured Responsible for the Increase in Emergency Department Visits in the United States? By Ellen J. Weber and others. IN: Annals of Emergency Medicine, vol. 52, no. 2 (August 2008) pp. 106-115.**

Full text at: [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=ArticleURL&\\_udi=B6WB0-4S8TR7D-2&\\_user=10&\\_coverDate=08%2F31%2F2008&\\_rdoc=1&\\_fmt=high&\\_orig=browse&\\_sort=d&\\_view=c&\\_acct=C000050221&\\_version=1&\\_urlVersion=0&\\_userid=10&md5=230aa965acd3324a996e70ce069b7b9c](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6WB0-4S8TR7D-2&_user=10&_coverDate=08%2F31%2F2008&_rdoc=1&_fmt=high&_orig=browse&_sort=d&_view=c&_acct=C000050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=230aa965acd3324a996e70ce069b7b9c)

["That study found the proportion of emergency visits by the uninsured had not changed substantially between 1992 and 2005, while the number of overall visits went up 28 percent. The survey also found that people in the highest income bracket - in excess of 400 percent of the federal poverty level - accounted for an increasing portion of emergency room visits, while the lowest income brackets remained virtually unchanged.,,, The rise in emergency room visits comes at a time when the number of hospital emergency departments nationwide dropped to 3,833 in 2006 from 4,019 a decade earlier. That decrease puts added pressure on the remaining emergency rooms. And California has the lowest percentage of emergency departments per capita - 6.12 per 1 million people." San Francisco Chronicle (August 7, 2008) 1.]

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## HEALTH CARE

**Organizing the U.S. Health Care Delivery System for High Performance. By Anthony Shih and others, the Commonwealth Fund, (The Fund, New York, New York) August 2008. 60 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr\\_doc/Shih\\_Organizing\\_8-4-08.pdf?section=4039](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/Shih_Organizing_8-4-08.pdf?section=4039)

[“This report examines fragmentation in our health care delivery system and offers policy recommendations to stimulate greater organization --established mechanisms for working across providers and care settings. Fragmentation fosters frustrating and dangerous patient experiences, especially for patients obtaining care from multiple providers in a variety of settings. It also leads to waste and duplication, hindering providers' ability to deliver high-quality, efficient care. Moreover, our fragmented system rewards high-cost, intensive medical intervention over higher-value primary care, including preventive medicine and the management of chronic illness. The solutions are complex and will require new financial incentives, changes to the regulatory, professional, and educational environments, and support for new infrastructure.”]

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## HISPANICS

**Hispanics and Health Care in the United States: Access, Information and Knowledge. By Gretchen Livingston and others, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 2008. 81 p.**

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/91.pdf>

["One of the largest surveys of Hispanics on health found that they are less likely to regularly see a doctor, even when insurance and language are not factors.... While Hispanics generally suffer fewer chronic diseases than most adults, when they do get sick they're diagnosed at later stages of disease, which are harder -- and costlier -- to treat.... But the study also showed that Hispanic immigrants were less likely to have access to a regular doctor or health insurance, compared with those born in the United States.... Health needs continue to evolve. Foreign-born Hispanics may come from countries where less emphasis is put on regular health checkups, but their health tends to deteriorate the longer they remain in this country." San Jose Mercury News (August 13, 2008) 1.]

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## HOUSING

### HOME OWNERSHIP

**Negative Equity and Foreclosure: Theory and Evidence. By Christopher L. Foote and others, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. (The Bank, Boston, Massachusetts) June 2008. 36 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.bos.frb.org/economic/ppdp/2008/ppdp0803.pdf>

["Millions of Americans have negative housing equity, meaning that the outstanding balance on their mortgage exceeds their home's current market value. Our data show that the overwhelming majority of these households will not lose their homes.... This result is also, contrary to popular belief, completely consistent with economic theory, which predicts that from the borrower's perspective, negative equity is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for foreclosure. Our findings imply that lenders and policymakers face a serious information problem in trying to help borrowers with negative equity, because it is difficult to determine which borrowers actually require help in order to prevent the loss of their homes to foreclosure."]

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### RENTAL HOUSING

**America's Rental Housing: The Key to a Balanced Policy. By Barbara Alexander and others, Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University. (The Center, Cambridge, Massachusetts) 2008. 36 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/rental/rh08\\_americas\\_rental\\_housing/rh08\\_americas\\_rental\\_housing.pdf](http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/rental/rh08_americas_rental_housing/rh08_americas_rental_housing.pdf)

["The damage from today's mortgage foreclosure crisis reaches deep into the rental market. With affordability already a long-standing problem, the current housing debacle not only adds to the number of households competing for low-cost rentals and threatens current renters with eviction from their homes, but also increases the costs of financing rental housing construction and preservation. Moreover, because many high-risk loans now in default are concentrated in low-income and minority communities, the fallout from foreclosures is hitting the same neighborhoods where many of the nation's most economically vulnerable renters live."]

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## HUMAN SERVICES

### EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS

**Metro Raise: Boosting the Earned Income Tax Credit to Help Metropolitan Workers and Families.** By Alan Berube and others, Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) June 2008. 71 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2008/05\\_metro\\_raise\\_berube/metro\\_raise\\_report.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2008/05_metro_raise_berube/metro_raise_report.pdf)

["To alleviate poverty, make work pay, and help low-wage workers and lower-income families meet rising costs of living, the federal government should expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Targeted expansions to the credit, and new options for workers to receive the EITC's proceeds throughout the year (rather than in a lump sum), would ensure more economically inclusive growth, especially in the major metropolitan areas where the bulk of America's working poor resides. The federal government should; 1) triple the maximum EITC for low-income, childless workers; 2) allow married couples to exclude one-half of a second earner's income; 3) expand the EITC for working families with three or more children; and 4) create a new, streamlined periodic payment option."]  
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### FAMILIES

**Family Security: Supporting Parents' Employment and Children's Development.** By Shelley Waters Boots and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 2008. 28 p.

Full text at: [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411718\\_parent\\_employment.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411718_parent_employment.pdf)

["Low-income working parents struggle with the same challenges other working parents do but have far fewer resources, more vulnerabilities, and less flexible jobs. For example, for low-income working families, shift work and changing schedules make it harder to stabilize meal and bedtime routines. Lack of paid leave challenges parents to make and keep their children's regular doctor or dental visits. Parental work in the first months of a child's life may make it hard for a newborn to form critical attachments to a parent. Similarly, lack of workplace flexibility can keep parents from attending school events regularly and having more than perfunctory conversations with their children. And cash-strapped parents are hard pressed to pay for quality child care or camps, lessons, and social activities."]  
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## HOMELESS

**The 2007 Annual Homeless Assessment Report. By Dr. Jill Khadduri, Abt Associates Inc., and others. (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC) July 2008. 144 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.hudhre.info/documents/3rdHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf>

["The number of chronically homeless people living in the nation's streets and shelters has dropped by about 30 percent -- from 175,914 to 123,833 -- from 2005 to 2007. Housing officials say the statistics may reflect better data collection and some variation in the number of communities reporting. But officials also attribute much of the decline to a policy shift that has focused federal and local resources on finding stable housing for homeless people suffering from drug addiction, mental illness or physical disabilities, long deemed the hardest to help in the homeless population.... Some advocates for the homeless criticized the administration's focus on the chronically homeless, saying that homeless families and those who live on the margins -- in motels or doubled up with friends and family -- are falling behind." New York Times (July 30, 2008) 1.]

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## TRANSPORTATION

### BICYCLING AND PEDESTRIANS

**Safe Routes to School: A Transportation Legacy: A National Strategy to Increase Safety and Physical Activity among American Youth. By the National Safe Routes to School Task Force. (The Task Force, Chapel Hill, North Carolina) July 2008. 92 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/task\\_force/collateral/task\\_force\\_report.web.pdf](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/task_force/collateral/task_force_report.web.pdf)

["Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs improve the lives of our children and grandchildren by creating safer and more vibrant connections between our schools and our communities. Through a combination of engineering treatments, traffic enforcement, safety education and encouragement programs, families can return to a way of life that gets children to and from school more safely and efficiently, reduces traffic congestion, improves air quality and gets people moving again.... Given the success that the SRTS program has demonstrated in the short time it has been in place, the Task Force recommends that the SRTS Program become a permanent feature of future transportation legislation. This will be critical in order to sustain the momentum generated by the Federal SRTS program."]

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## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION**

**Integrating Climate Change into the Transportation Planning Process. By ICF International. (Federal Highway Administration, Washington, DC) July 2008. 59 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/climatechange/climatechange.pdf>

[“The objective of this study is to advance the practice and application of transportation planning among state, regional, and local transportation planning agencies to successfully meet growing concerns about the relationship between transportation and climate change. This report explores the possibilities for integrating climate change considerations into long range transportation planning at state DOTs and MPOs. The report reviews the experience of a number of DOTs and MPOs that are already incorporating climate change into their transportation planning processes and identifies their successes as well as challenges faced by these agencies.”]

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